A THIRD BRITISH CAPTURE OF *TEMNOSTETHUS TIBIALIS* REUT. (HEM.: ANTHOCORIDAE)

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THIS rare and little-known species, with a very scattered distribution across south-central Europe and eastwards, was added to our list by the late G.E. Woodroffe (1971) on two specimens taken by himself, together with one from Jersey, and identified by the Anthocorid specialist Dr J. Péricart.They were a sub-brachypterous male from Silwood Park, Sunninghill, Berks (vii,64) and a macropterous female from Pamber Forest, N. Hants (vi.70) — both from oak. The Jersey example, another sub-brachypterous male, had been found in company with both *T. pusillus* H.-S. and *T. gracilis* Horv. on lichen-covered oak by Dr W.J. LeQuesne (1955). Since, however, the Channel Islands do not form part of the Britannic faunal area, but rather of that of north-west France, there remain but two genuinely British captures previous to that recorded hereunder. Dr P. Kirby has been good enough to check all records and specimens available to him without discovering any further evidence of *T. tibialis* in this country. It thus appears safe to conclude that this bug is, up to now at least, exceedingly rare with us; especially as it is by no means hard to separate from our other two species of the genus, and so not very likely to be confounded with either.

On 9th July 1986,I detected a macropterous female *Temnostethus* crawling sluggishly on a sap-run on the trunk of an oak in Oxleas Wood SSSI, Shooters Hill, W. Kent (S.E. London). From the characters given by Woodroffe, especially the longer rostrum* (apparent even to the naked eye on comparison), it was easily recognised as *T. tibialis* — a determination lately put beyond any possible doubt by the use of Péricart's key and description (1972: 81, 89-91).

The sap-run and adjacent parts of the trunk were under frequent observation during that and the following summers (the tree being productive of interesting Diptera), but at no time was any other *Temnostethus* found there. The bug might have been living higher on the tree and its presence at the sap was doubtless only casual. *T. pusillus* occurs in these woods very rarely (twice to date) by sweeping oak foliage or the grass etc. beneath; it might be found more freely by systematic beating and trunk-searching. *T. gracilis,* regarded as more common, has eluded me hitherto. It might seem from the literature that the absence of lichens could be a factor contributing to the rarity of the genus in this district, but Dr Kirby's considerable experience of *gracilis* and *pusillus* elsewhere hardly

*Anthocorids are best set with the rostrum porrect, to facilitate comparison of its length.

bears out that idea. The Jersey occurrence, in particular, suggests that *T. tibialis* does not differ ecologically in any obvious way from the other two species with which it occurred there. In that connection,it is worth noticing that apparently neither of them accompanied *tibialis* at Sunninghill or Pamber; and also that in the former of these areas Heteroptera had been intensively collected for 15 years without yielding a *Temnostethus* (Woodroffe, 1964).

In addition to England and Jersey, *T. tibialis* is recorded by Péricart (p.91) only from southern Czechoslovakia (one ex.), Rumania (Bucarest, two on a pear tree), Turkey (Istanbul, one) and Crete (the type). Its apparent extreme rarity is problematic.

Woodroffe (1971) provides a key to the three species. I give here an alternative version which may be found of service, incorporating as it does one or two further characters, but making use only of such as are most readily appreciable (partly after Péricart).

1/2 Antennae entirely dark; rostrum and head as *gracilis*; hemelytra distinctly haired, as *tibialis*, but hairs paler. In Britain always macropterous..... *pusillus* H.-S.

2/1 Antennae with segment 2 in part or mostly pale, or, at darkest, reddish in middle.

3/4 Rostrum moderate, reaching mid coxae; head shorter in front, not or scarcely reaching beyond end of first antennal segment; hemelytra, viewed sideways, almost glabrous or with any hairs extremely small and scattered; in brachypters covering less than half of abdomen, membrane at most a narrow strip. Usually brachypterous.....*gracilis* Horv.

4/3 Rostrum long, reaching hind coxae; head longer infront, reaching distinctly beyond end of first antennal segment; hemelytra, viewed sideways, with very evident short raised dark hairs; in sub-brachypters covering abdomen or very nearly so, with membrane triangular or oval. Usual condition: male sub-brachypterous, female macropterous.....*tibialis* Reut.

The male paramere shows undoubted differences in the three species, but also considerable variation (LeQuesne, 1955: 260-1 and figures). Moreover, Woodroffe's descriptions and Péricart's figures are in some cases a little hard to reconcile, so I have thought it best to omit this feature from the key.

Acknowledgement

I am deeply grateful to Dr Peter Kirby, of the Invertebrate Site Register, for his ready and most helpful response to my enquiry as to the present British status of *T. tibialis,* and for kindly supplying a photocopy of the relevant portion of Dr Péricart's monograph.

References

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Death-feigning in *Exochomus quadripustulatus* L. (Col.: Coccinellidae)

Recently after cutting a spray of firethorn in full fruit and taking it indoors, I noticed what at first glance looked like a small round fragment of debris fallen from it. Closer inspection, however, showed it to be a seemingly dead example of the above fairly common ladybird, lying on its back on the table. Thinking this strange, since it appeared quite uninjured, I placed it in the palm of my hand for examination with a lens. It continued in this deathlike state (as I suspected it to be) for about a minute and a half, after which it quickly "came to life" and, taken out into the sun, flew away.

I report this possibly trivial incident because, as far as I know, death-feigning (thanatosis, letisimulation) seems little known and seldom observed in Coccinellidae. At all events,I cannot remember having seen it before, though I have come across a good many ladybirds in my time; with warning coloration as most of them have, such a reflex would, I suppose, be superfluous. It may be limited to some of the darker or obscurely-coloured species, or occur in exceptional conditions only, such as falling from a height onto a hard surface. As expected, I was unable to induce it in the common *Adalia bipunctata* L. for more than a second or so. — A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Claviger testaceus* Preys. (Col.: Pselaphidae) in pitfall traps near Folkestone, Kent**

As part of a terrestrial monitoring programme, contracted by Transmanche-Link, groups of pitfall traps were installed on that part of the Folkestone-Etchinghill escarpment SSSI between Sugarloaf Hill, in the east, and Peene Hill, to the west. At each of eight sites four glass jars, with a mouth diameter of 48 mm, were arranged at the corners of a one metre square at locations on the upper and lower sections of the chalk escarpment. These pitfall traps were placed in position on 23rd May and removed, four weeks later, on 20th June 1989.

One of these sampling sites is situated just west of Cheriton Water Works on the steep upper slope of the escarpment at Cherry Garden Hill (TR207380). Among the Coleoptera collected were six *Claviger testaceus* Preys. This distinctive myrmecophilous pselaphid is typically found in the nests of *Lasius flavus* (F.), which Donisthorpe (1927, *The Guests of British Ants,* pp.13-14) regarded as its primary host. However, he also lists *Lasius*